

**ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IC
APRIL 20, 2012
EXHIBIT 17**

Legislative Committee Meeting

Chairman Berry, Members of the Committee

Thank you for inviting me to testify before you today. Contrary to what you have heard here today I do not come to Helena on meeting dates to shop and actually I do not even like coming to Helena at all. I certainly do not drive to Helena for \$50 bucks and some gas money. The fact of the matter is that my industry's slogan sums it all up. "The Plumber Protects The Health of The Nation". Since I was an apprentice some 30 years ago this slogan was etched into my brain time and time again. For some background for you, the plumber protects the health of the nation by keeping your drinking water safe from contaminants such as sewage and chemicals that will get into the system from cross connections. Cross connections, remember this word as I will come back to it in a moment. We as plumbers also keep the public safe from being exposed to sewer gas by proper venting techniques as well as keeping the public safe from disease spread through leaking sewer pipes and faulty pipe connections. My profession is about public health and safety, and I am proud and honored to give back to my state my time in the interest of public safety.

I talked about cross connections a few moments ago, and I want to let you know the risks involved with cross connections. Each year the Center for Disease Control publishes a report on WBDO or water borne disease outbreaks. Each year the CDC tabulates and identifies the cause of sickness from these outbreaks and every year cross connections and faulty plumbing are listed as causes to these out breaks that cause serious illness and death. I can personally attest to witnessing 20 to 30 cross connections a year that I come across just in my little town. Furthermore, an up and coming disease known as Legionnaires disease is increasing at an alarming rate and the cause is listed as faulty or inadequate plumbing. Chairman Berry, Members of the Committee these threats are real and they are in our back yard and the plumbers of this state are your best defense in this fight.

Thank you.

Scott Lemert